

ABSTRACT

5 In a UMTS (universal mobile telecommunications system) based system, a wireless receiver comprises a convolutional decoder, a processor and memory. The convolutional decoder processes a received signal and provides a Yamamoto-Itoh (*YI*) metric to the processor. The processor (a) retrieves, from a look-up table stored in the memory, a compensation factor as a function of the *YI* metric value provided by the Viterbi decoder; (b) retrieves, from another look-up table stored in the memory, an initial *BER* estimate as a function of the *YI* metric; and (c) modifies the initial *BER* estimate with the retrieved compensation value to provide a *BER* estimate.